

## **Viral Encephalitis (Arbovirus)**

**Revision 08/08/02**

**Missouri Dept of Health and Senior Services (800) 392-0272 (24 hour)**

**State Public Health Laboratory (573) 751-3334 or 751-0633**

**Contact the MSPHL at (573) 751-0633 to obtain specific shipping instructions.**

**Remember that these samples may be highly infective! Extreme caution should be taken in collecting, preparing for shipment and transporting any material suspected of being contaminated with a biological agent.**

### **Specimen Collection and Transport**

#### **Clinical Specimens:**

- Collect acute serum and CSF.
- Terminal/postmortem: Serum and pathology samples plus brain material if an autopsy is performed.
- Call for detailed instructions of specimen collection and transport.

#### **Signs and Symptoms:**

- Sudden onset of illness with generalized malaise, spiking fevers, rigors, severe headache, photophobia, and myalgias. Nausea, vomiting, cough, sore throat, and diarrhea may follow. full recovery takes 1-2 weeks.
- Incubation period from 1-5 days.
- Standard precautions for healthcare workers.